0.5
NOV 23 '49

ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY

VOL. V, NO. 1 NEWS NOVEMBER 1949

ISSUED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

CHANGE IN DIRECTORSHIP

Colonel Joseph H. McNinch, Medical Corps, has completed his tour of duty as Director of the Army Medical Library and has been transferred to the Office of the Surgeon General, U. S. Army, where he will continue with the writing of the History of the Medical Department, U. S. Army, in World War II.

Major Frank B. Rogers, Medical Corps, assumed the duties of Director on 21 October 1949. Major Rogers becomes Director after more than eighteen months of training, including a year at the Columbia University School of Library Service.

NEW BUILDING

Colonel McNinch announced at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Honorary Consultants that the Secretary of Defense had requested the General Services Administrator to budget for and construct a new building for the Army Medical Library, and that the General Services Administrator had replied agreeing to do so. This move takes advantage of the statutory provisions authorizing the Public Buildings Administration to construct government buildings for public use.

Hearings must be held before the Bureau of the Budget and the Congress before revised enabling and appropriation legislation becomes a reality, but the prospects for a new building in the not too distant future are considerably brighter.

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF ASSOCIATION OF HONORARY CONSULTANTS

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Association of Honorary Consultants to the Army Medical Library was held in Washington on Friday, 21 October 1949.

Printing cost borne by Association of Honorary Consultants to the Army Medical Library.

At the morning session, Major General Raymond W. Bliss, Surgeon General of the Army, addressed the Association, outlining his position on the usefulness of the Army Medical Library to the Armed Forces.

Major General Charles R. Reynolds, Surgeon General, U.S. Army Retired, reporting for the Building Committee, reviewed the Army's previous efforts to acquire a new building for the Library. Rear Admiral George W. Calver, Attending Physician to Congress, read a Resolution, which was passed by the Association, congratulating the Secretary of Defense and the General Services Administrator on their efforts to initiate construction of a new building.

The afternoon session was devoted to a symposium on medical indexing, with a report on the UNESCO Conference on Coordination of Scientific Abstracting given by Professor Eileen R. Cunningham, of Vanderbilt University, a report from the Secretary of the Surgeon General's Committee of Consultants to study Medical Indexing, Dr. Ebbe C. Hoff, of the Medical College of Virginia, and a report from Dr. Sanford V. Larkey, of the Welch Medical Library, Johns Hopkins University, on the Surgeon General's indexing research project.

The Library's historical interests were not neglected. Dr. William Jerome Wilson, Chief of the History of Medicine Division, described briefly the policies behind the development of the Library's collections in the field, and Dr. Dorothy M. Schullian gave a sympathetic account of Dr. Billings' relations with Dr. Thomas Windsor, of Manchester, England.

At the evening session Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, President of Johns Hopkins University and Chairman of the National Research Council, entitling his remarks "The Results of Research," gave an inspired address on the functions of science in modern society.

EXHIBITS

The current Library exhibit is entitled "Officers in Charge of the Army Medical Library." It consists of the portraits of all former commanding officers together with a short biography of each.

An exhibit entitled "110 Years of Bibliographic Control in the Army Medical Library, 1840 - 1949" was on display in the Sternberg Auditorium, Army Medical Center, for the Honorary Consultants Association Meeting there on the afternoon of Friday, 21 October.

UNIV. OF MICH.

INDEXING COMMITTEE MEETING

The sixth meeting of the Committee of Consultants for the Study of the Indexes to Medical Literature was held at the Welch Medical Library, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, on 20 October 1949. Dr. Sanford V. Larkey, who was the Army Medical Library's delegate to the UNESCO Conference on Coordination of Scientific Abstracting, reported to the Committee. Dr. Williamina A. Himwich and Miss Helen Field assisted Dr. Larkey in describing the preliminary findings of the indexing research project currently conducted at Johns Hopkins for Medical Research and Development, S.G.O.

Investigations into scope and coverage of medical indexing services and subject heading problems are continuing.

Colonel Joseph H. McNinch, as retiring Director, and Major Frank B. Rogers, as incoming Director of the Army Medical Library, read prepared statements on the need for solutions to specific questions related to medical indexing publications by the Army Medical Library. Their reports were referred to a subcommittee headed by Dr. Eugene W. Scott, Executive Secretary of the Interdepartmental Committee on Scientific Research and Development. The subcommittee will report at the next meeting, tentatively set for 16 December 1949.

ACQUISITIONS

The Library acquired at a recent auction sale William Wordsworth's copy of Sir Thomas Browne, Pseudodoxia Epidemica, or Enquiries into Very many Received Tenents and commonly presumed Truths, Fourth Edition with Marginal Observations . . . . . Whereunto are now added Urn - Burial, and The Garden of Cyrus, London, Edward Dod, to be sold by Andrew Crook, 1658.

This is the first combined edition of the Pseudodoxia, The Urn-Burial, and the Garden of Cyrus. It bears Wordsworth's signature on the title - page of the Urn - Burial and is well authenticated as from the poet's library.

In the same sale the Library acquired Phineas Fletcher, The Purple Island . . . . Cambridge, 1633, a curious poem in classical style in which several cantos are given to an elaborate physiological allegory which is remarkable evidence of the educated layman's knowledge - and ignorance - of the human body in the days of Harvey.

AML REVISES CLASSIFICATION

As of 1 November 1949, the Army Medical Library will use a simplification of the W schedules in classifying its books. It is believed that this revision, prepared by Major Rogers, will result in greater speed and efficiency in organizing the Library's collections.

Copies of the revision have been made for administrative use only, and are not available for distribution.

CURRENT LIST NEWS

The indexing arrearage for the Current List has been eliminated and the Section has been transferred from the Catalog Division to the Office of the Director.

Project reports from medical research contracts arising in the Department of Defense are now being included in the Current List of Medical Literature.

STAFF NOTES

Miss M. Ruth MacDonald, Chief of the Catalog Division, attended the Southeastern Regional A.L.A. Conference at Miami Beach, Florida, on 26 October, and appeared on the program of the Division of Cataloging and Classification.

Miss M. Irene Jones resigned as Head of the Subject Cataloging Section, Catalog Division, on 7 October, to become Assistant Librarian at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine Library in Memphis, Tennessee.

The following staff members are participating in the rating and reviewing of the recent Civil Service examination, Librarian P-2 to P-5: Miss M. Ruth MacDonald, Mr. Joseph A. Groesbeck, Miss Mary E. Grinnell and Miss Eleanor R. Hasting.

ABRIDGED ANNUAL REPORTS

Copies of the Abridged Annual Reports for the Fiscal Year 1949 are available on request to the Director.

1949

se a
s be-
lt in
tions.
use

nated
to the

in the
ist of

ended
orida,
atalog-

loging
rarian
mphis,

ng and
to P-5;
ry E.

r 1949